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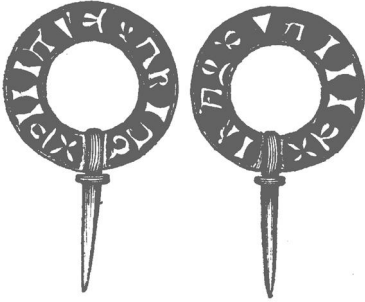
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ANTIQUARIAN NOTES AND QUERIES.



FIBULA WITH INSCRIPTION.—The silver fibula or buckle, of both sides of which we here give an accurate drawing, (full size,) was recently found near Carrickfergus castle. Marks of gilding still remain in several places. The tongue closely resembles in shape the old Irish *skein* or dagger. With the exception of two beautiful brooches figured in Wilson's *Pre-historic Annals of Scotland*, (the Hunterstown Runic Brooch, plate 5, frontispiece, and the Glenlyon Brooch, plate 2, p. 220) we know of no other examples of fibulæ bearing inscriptions. The letters in the present specimen have been rudely engraved or deeply cut out of the solid metal: we leave it to the ingenuity of our readers to decipher their meaning. Our learned contributor, "Erigena," having examined the inscription, writes us as follows:—"After the best consideration I can give it, I believe it to be in the

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Latin language, and in the character which occurs on the coins of the 12th and 13th centuries; but the letters have apparently been cut by an illiterate workman, who merely copied a tracing that he did not understand. On the one side of the fibula, I conceive the legend is

AVE MARIA G x P III

which I interpret, AVE MARIA, GRATIÆ PLENA (TER). "Hail Mary, full of grace! (thrice);"—intimating that the formula was to be thrice repeated. On the opposite side of the brooch it appears to me that the legend is the same, only that the words and letters are both *reversed*; thus

III P x G AIRAM EVA

The forms of the E and M, however, I admit are unusual; and perhaps I am altogether mistaken in the explanation which I have suggested. If I be right, the fibula would seem to have belonged to some ecclesiastical or religious person. Being of small size, it might perhaps have been worn by a consecrated virgin, possibly an abbess."

BEE-HIVE CHURCHES.—Sometimes I am inclined to think that buildings similar to the beehive structures, described by Dr. Petrie as ecclesiastical, may have existed in the East in the early days of Christianity. Tertullian says:—"Habent apes favos; habent ecclesias et Marcionitæ." This was the name of a numerous sect in Italy, Syria, Egypt, Arabia, and Persia. H. P.

“ Les anciens monumens de l'Irlande offrent beaucoup de traits de ressemblance avec ceux du Nord. Le combat de Clontarf où le roi de l'Irlande, Brien Boru, défit les Scandinaves, connus dans le pays sous le nom des ‘Danois venus de Dublin,’ est considéré en Irlande comme un des plus grands triomphes nationaux. Parmi le peuple surtout de la partie occidentale de l'Irlande, il s'est conservé, de même que parmi les habitants de la haute Ecosse, une crainte presque superstitieuse des Danois ; et les vieilles femmes en racontent des histoires merveilleuses à leurs enfants et à leurs petits enfants. Aussi la conservation invariable de la forme des noms donnés par les anciens habitants du Nord aux trois provinces de Leinster, d'Ulster, et de Munster, fait-elle foi de la grande influence que nos ancêtres ont exercée sur l'Irlande. Il paraît même que le nom propre d'Irlande est d'origine Scandinave. Les indigènes du pays l'appellent encore aujourd'hui *Eiri*. De même, un quartier de Dublin porte encore le nom d'*Oxmantown*, qui dans les vieux documents est appelé en Latin *Villa Ostmannorum*. Ce nom dérive tout naturellement du nom d'*Austmenn* par lequel on désignait les Danois et les Norvégiens qui habitaient cette partie de la ville. A Dublin et dans ses environs on a aussi très-souvent déterré des glaives en fer, des lances, des parures, et d'autres petits objets, tout-à-fait semblables à des objets pareils trouvés dans le Nord ; mais si différents des antiquités Irlandaises qu'on ne pourrait jamais douter de leur origine Scandinave. Un glaive en fer, et quelques autres armes du même métal furent déterrés, il y a peu d'années, sur le bord du Larne-Lough, où ils avaient été déposés à côté d'un squelette, à environ 15 milles Anglais

au nord de Belfast. La forme de ces armes était tout-à-fait semblable à celle des armes en fer qu'on a trouvées aux environs de Dublin, et que l'on prétend d'origine Norvégienne. Un ancien document de l'an 1210, découvert il n'y a pas longtemps, nous apprend que le Larne-Lough portait alors le nom de *Wulverichesford* ; et que la baie de Larne était le golfe en Irlande auquel les Sagas Islandaises donnent le nom de *Ulfriks-fjord*, où l'on raconte que Einar, comte des Orcades, livra une bataille contre Konoföger, roi d'Irlande. Il est donc très-vraisemblable que ces armes de fer ont précisément appartenu à un des combattants Scandinaves qui ont péri dans la bataille.

“ L'académie royale d'Irlande et l'université appelée Trinity-College à Dublin possèdent, l'une et l'autre, un très-grand nombre d'anciens manuscrits Irlandais dont il n'y a que très-peu qui aient été publiés jusqu' à présent d'une manière fort imparfaite. On trouve dans ces manuscrits de nombreuses relations, pour la plupart en forme d'annales, sur les expéditions des anciens Scandinaves en Irlande. Une comparaison exacte de toutes ces relations avec les rapports contenus dans les Sagas Islandaises, et dans les œuvres de Saxon le Grammairien, serait d'une importance inappréciable pour l'archéologie du Nord, de même que pour celle de l'Irlande. On en apprendrait en quels points les relations s'accordent ; d'où l'on pourrait encore juger combien il faut y ajouter foi sous d'autres rapports.”—
[From a Report made to the King of Denmark by Mr. Worsaae, respecting his Tour in Great Britain and Ireland. *Mémoires de la Société des Antiquaires du Nord*, vol. II., pp. 143-4. 1847.]

THE IRISH IN SWEDEN.—In a note appended to Sir John Davis's letter, which appeared in the last No. of the Journal, p. 197, written from "The Camp near Liméavaddy in Ochanes' Country, 28 August, 1609," where Sir John says—"In this little country wee have had a great Gaol-delivery, but no execution of any prisoner; for my Lo: Deputy hath spared and reserved them all to fill up the companies that are to be sent into the wars of Swethan,"—it is stated "this is a new fact, not mentioned in any history of the time, as far as we are aware." It is, however, quite certain that the statement is true, as the following extract from the Patent Rolls of James I. 14th, March 10th (1613) clearly establishes. "No. LV.—31. King's letter for a grant to Capt. John Sanford, for ever, of all the mountain lands, bogs, and woods, in Ulster, escheated to the Crown by the attainders of the earls of Tirone and Tierconnell, or any of their adherents, or any other traitors, or which otherwise belong to the Crown and are not now in charge, to be holden under the conditions of the plantation of Ulster, at a yearly rent of 10s. This grant is to be made in consideration of Capt. Sanford's absence, during the distribution of the escheated lands in Ulster, in consequence of which no portion was assigned to him, he being then engaged in conducting the loose kerne and swordsmen of that province to the service of the king of Sweden, disburthening the country, by that means, of turbulent and disaffected persons who would otherwise have troubled the peace." The dates above given fix the sending forth of these Irish conscript swordsmen between the years 1609 and 1613, in the reign of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden; and it is very likely that the records of his wars, and

the biographies of the Scottish volunteers who crowded to his standard to learn the art of fighting, may contain some notices of these auxiliaries. At all events, Capt. Sanford seems to have been pretty well rewarded, as, in pursuance of the royal letter of the 7th of July, 1613, he received a grant of several mountains, bogs, and woods in the counties of Armagh, Tyrone, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Donegal, and Cavan, the names of which are given in the Letters Patent, with all other mountains, bogs, and woods in said counties, or the borders thereof, except such as had been theretofore granted by the King by Letters Patent, at the rent of £26 13s. 4d., to hold for ever in common socage.—He married Anne Caulfield, niece of Sir Toby Caulfield, first Lord Charlemont, by whom he had issue Toby, Joan, Lettice Maria, and Maudlin. In 1612 he purchased from Sir John Davis, Castledoe, in the Barony of Kilmacrenan, Co. Donegal, and about the same time several other properties from Sir Richard Bingley and Sir Ralph Bingley, in the same county, the estates of religious houses, and other confiscated property.

In 1618, when Capt. Pynnar made his survey of Ulster, Capt. Sanford was living at Castledoe "with his wife and family dwelling therein, with four other English families on the land." It is probable that about this period he disposed of the mountains and woods to Sir Toby Caulfield, and that the latter took out a new grant in his own name; as on the 25th March, 1619, Sir Toby obtained by Letters Patent all the mountains in the province of Ulster as concealments in that province. This grant is mentioned by Lodge in his Irish Peerage, but is not in the printed Rolls of James I. The Ulster Inquisitions contain one

taken at Lifford, 4th July, 1637, by which it was found that Toby Sampford (the same orthography as in the Patent Rolls), died 7th May same year, leaving his sisters his co-heirs.

J. W. H.

ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE.—As in most other things, so there is a fashion in scepticism, which, not long since, displayed itself in ignoring all of what is called Bardic tradition. May it not be the case that the names which have reached us from the dark ages are those of real personages, though the exploits attributed to them may be principally fabulous? For instance I believe in St. Patrick, though I have doubts of his swimming from Port Patrick to Donaghadee with his own head in his own teeth! In like manner I believe in King Arthur, but *cum grano salis*. The "Round table Knights" are generally repudiated as being of Norman invention: I see no greater difficulty, however, in supposing a British order of Knights, than believing in the Irish "Knights of the Red Branch," whose existence is an admitted historical fact. The "Round Table" itself gives an air of plausibility to the narrative, and I know not what Norman example we have for it. Arthur, one of many British kings, his equals or superiors, may have acquired by his talent the military command; and no wiser regulation to prevent disputes for precedence could be devised than feasting and consulting at a table where no difference in rank was implied; certainly, as the Italians say, *se non è vero, è ben trovato*.

H. P.

MOUTH OF THE FORD.—In several instances in this Journal reference has been made to this curious idiomatic expression of the Irish, as applied to such localities as Belfast. Procopius

mentions an African term *Caput Vadi*, "head of the Ford," corrupted in later times into *Capaudia*. This is a somewhat similar expression. Justinian founded a city at this place. Ptolemy calls it *Brachodes*. H. P.

HARP.—"*Romanusque lyra tibi plaudat, Barbarus harpa*,"—is a line from Venantius Fortunatus, quoted by Gibbon, with reference to the request made by Gelimer, to the lieutenant of Belisarius, by whom he was besieged at Papua: "I beseech you, my dear Pharas, send me a lyre, a sponge, and a loaf of bread." Gibbon seems to think that the Vandal king, being a barbarian, must have intended the harp, not the lyre, the instrument of civilized men. It shows, however, that *harp* is an old word, if it prove nothing more. H. P.

CAULDRONS.—According to Gibbon, the Germans, who invaded Italy to support their first emperors, brought back the bones of their princes and nobles who perished in war. On this he gives the following note:—"After boiling away the bones.—The cauldrons for that purpose were a necessary piece of travelling furniture; and a German, who was using it for his brother, promised it to a friend after it should have been employed for himself." (*Schmidt*, tom. iii., p. 423, 424.) What if our Irish brazen vessels were used in this manner? May not the bones found in Round Towers, &c., have some such origin?

H. P.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.—It is always useful to compare the customs of rude nations. It is said that interments had taken place in our Irish mounds, and this is considered an argument against the opinion that they were sites of habitations. In *Raike's Exploring Voyage up the*

Niger, &c., published last year, the following occurs :—"Throughout S'gbo the bodies of the dead are generally interred. In Abo this is invariably done, and the grave is always in the hut of the deceased; but this does not prevent the place remaining inhabited." (p. 315.) H. P.

SURNAMES.—We have a common surname in the North of Ireland, similar in derivation to one of the most distinguished of mediæval Rome. The Ursini were descended from some ancestor bearing the name of *Ursa*, the bear. We have the surname *McTear*, which would seem to be the Irish *MacTíre*, a wolf. If this derivation be correct, it affords an example of a very unusual use of the word *Mac*: *MacTear* would not be "the Son of Tear." How is this to be explained; and how would the Irish have expressed "the Son of *MacTíre*?" H. P.

TYRONE'S BED.—Near Rochdale, in Lancashire, "the site of a few cottages in a romantic dell is still associated with the memory of the unfortunate Earl of Tyrone. It is yet called 'Tyrone's Bed.'"—These few words are extracted from one of Roby's *Legends of Lancashire*; and the tale which he has introduced into his work, evidently a fiction, is illustrated by an engraving of the spot by Finden. H. P.

ANTIQUITIES IN DONEGAL.—To the antiquary the ruins of the little church of Ray, close by the "Crossroads" near Dunfanaghy, will be an interesting object; for, imbedded in its churchyard at the west end, with its head lying to the north, are the almost perfect remains of one of the largest crosses in Ireland—perhaps even the largest of its class. The arms at the junction are bound together by a circular rib, the width across the arms being 7 ft. 6 in., and the total

length 20 ft. 9 in.; the shaft averages 2 feet wide by about 2 inches thick. The stones in which it was originally fixed are still in existence; and, from some fragments which were discovered, it would appear that the lower part of the shaft was placed between two circular stones, and that a stone wedge or pin was then driven *through a hole in the shaft itself*, corresponding with holes in the two circular plinths, which being built round would effectually prevent the removal of the cross—not an uncommon subject for the mediæval thief or plunderer to exercise his skill upon.—

From Gweedore hotel a pleasant ride brings us to Dunlewey, (Dun Lughaidh ?) Near the marble church of this place are the ruined foundations of one of the earliest monasteries in Ireland. The plan is just sufficiently distinct to show its antiquity. A circular boundary wall appears to have enclosed four circular buildings, each about fourteen feet in diameter. These seem to have been grouped on the south and south-east of a centre, probably occupied by the principal cross; to the north of which are the remains of the church, measuring 24 feet by 10 feet inside the walls, which are no less than 4 feet thick. Near the centre of the enclosure there are three or four stones of a different nature from those used in the walls. Two of them are standing; and one facing east and west has incised upon it the figure of a cross with forked ends, and a circle at the junction of the arms. This stone is now about 3 feet high, but it is evident that it was originally higher; and it may probably be referred to the class of pillar-stones used in the days of paganism.

The archæologist will be interested to learn

that a number of bronze pins, about 14 inches long, have been from time to time discovered by the shifting of the sand-banks here. Some are in the possession of Lord G. A. Hill; and a remarkably perfect one, discovered in April last, is preserved in the Rev. J. Doherty's museum. The head of the pin is globular, with short arms forming a cross, one side of the globe being also incised with a series of cross lines, in the shape of a diagonal, or St. Andrew's Cross. The head is about three-eighths of an inch in diameter.—

About twenty miles north from Derry, on the western coast of Loch Foyle, may be observed another specimen of the ancient Irish crosses. It still remains erect, facing east and west, beside the entrance to the old graveyard of Moville; in height it appears to be about twelve feet, and it possesses also a circular "rib" at the junction of its arms. The base of the shaft is inserted into a rectangular opening in a large flag.

G. SIGERSON.

SEVEN CHURCHES.—I am not aware that any

one has connected the "seven churches," often referred to in the annals of this country, with the curious ancient Christian legend of the "seven sleepers." Gibbon gives the authorities for this story, which dates in the reign of the younger Theodosius, and seems to have taken a firm hold on the public mind. Seven persecuted young men of Ephesus, escaping from the Emperor Decius, were built up in a cave, and found alive nearly two centuries afterwards. Of course the interest of the tale arises from their astonishment at finding all familiar things changed during the interval. The legend became a favourite one with both the Latin and Greek church.—After all, however, the most rational explanation of our groupes of "seven churches" in Ireland seems to me to be the Seven Churches of Asia in the primitive days of Christianity; and this accordance affords an additional indication of the early connection of the Irish church with the Eastern or Greek Church.

H. P.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

DUTCH SETTLERS IN IRELAND.—T. O., in vol. 4, p. 273, has inquired whether any Dutchmen settled at Lough Foil, and whether there is any record of their names. I cannot satisfactorily answer the query, but I am aware that several Dutchmen obtained grants of naturalization in Ireland early in the reign of James I. The Patent Rolls of that king's reign, so far as published, show that 7th June, 1605, *John de la Grandge*, otherwise *Verhoven*, and *John Van Dale*, of

Brabant, and their issue, were declared to be free and liberated from the yoke of the servitude of Brabant or Ireland, or any other nation, with privilege to enjoy all the rights of Englishmen, to plead in all courts, to hold lands, rents, offices, and all other possessions whatsoever, so long as they continue to be liege subjects; notwithstanding any Flemish or Irish condition, or any statute or reason to the contrary. Similar grants were made to others; 10th April, 1605, to

Gabriel Behaese, of Antwerp, in Brabant; *Matthew Derenzie*, of Antwerp; 11th June, 1607, to *Will Boell*, of Antwerp; 6th Sept., 1608, to *Jac. Marciis*, of Amsterdam, and *Derrick Varveer*, of Dort, in Holland, merchants; and on the 15th Feb., 1613, to *Wybrant Olfertson*, and *John Olfertson*, of Holland, for a fine of 13s 4d. Irish.

The Derenzie (now De Rinzy) and Olfertson (now Olpherts) families are still extant, and in opulent circumstances in Ireland, the former at Clobemon Hall, county Wexford, and the latter at Ballyconnell House, county Donegal, with branches in Armagh and Down; but whether any descendants of the others continue in this country the present writer does not know. It is highly probable the Vandeleurs and Van Homrighs settled here about the same time. Burke, in his *Landed Gentry*, traces the present Thomas De Rinzy of Cobemon from Sir Mathew De Rinzy, knight, who obtained a grant of that estate from Charles I., and who is stated in his monumental inscription to have been born at Cullen, in Germany, and to have been descended from the famous *GEORGE CASTRIOTA*, alias *SCAN-DEBERG*. I think he is the Matthew of Antwerp.

It appears by the Ulster Inquisitions that Olphard Olpharts was seated at Ballynesse, co. Donegal, and died 12th May, 1637, leaving Olphard Olpharts, jun., his son and heir, and not married; and by two several inquisitions, taken at Lifford, 21st June, 13th Charles II., it was found that Wybrant Olpharts, or Olphert, of the co. Londonderry, having purchased from Henry Hart, of Muffe, for £300, the lands of Enishbofin, Magheryoutragh, Ballenas, Balleconnell, Drummelumey, Ardbegg, Ardmore, and Gorte-

carke, in the barony of Killmacrennan, county Donegal, died 15th April, 1643, leaving Wybrant Olpharts, jun., his nephew and heir, then aged six years; Ardmore and Gorticart being held *in capite* by knight's service, the remainder in free and common socage.

J. W. H.

Dr. Hume's article (*Journal*, vol. 5, p. 95) on spinning and weaving, refers to Robin Hood walking with his "spindle and twine." It is evident some different mode is intended than one where the spindle whirls on the ground. At vol. 2, page 181, of this *Journal*, an engraving is given which seems to explain the term *twine*.

E. G.

RAPPAREES.—[*Queries*, vol. 5, p. 166.]—Story, in his *Continuation of the History of the Wars in Ireland*, (published in 1693,) has frequent mention of the Irish *Rapparees*. At page 50, he says:—"These men knew the country, nay, all the secret corners, woods, and bogs; keeping a constant correspondence with one another, and also with the army, who furnished them with all necessaries, especially ammunition. When they had any project on foot, their method was not to appear in a body, for then they would have been discovered; and not only so, but carriages and several other things had been wanting which every one knows that is acquainted with this trade: their way was, therefore, to make a private appointment to meet at such a pass or wood, precisely at such a time o' th' night or day as it stood with their convenience; and though you could not see a man over night, yet exactly at their hour you might find three or four hundred, more or less, as they had occasion, all well armed, and ready for what design they had formerly projected; but

if they hapned to be discovered or overpowered, they presently dispersed, having before-hand appointed another place of rendezvous, ten or twelve miles (it may be) from the place they were at; by which means our men could never fix any close engagement upon them during the winter; so that if they could have held out another year, the *Rapparees* would have continued still very prejudicial to our army, as well by killing our men privately, as stealing our horses and intercepting our provisions. But after all, least the next age may not be of the same humour with this, and the name of a *Rapparee* may possibly be thought a finer thing than it really is, I do assure you that in my stile they never can be reputed other than Tories, Robbers, Thieves, and Bog-trotters." SENEX.

IRISH PEARLS.—[Queries, vol. 5, p. 166.] O'Connor, in his *Prolegomena*, says:—"That Irish pearls were greatly prized among the ancient Irish, is proved by a letter among those published by Ussher, in which Gillibertus of Limerick, writing to St. Anselm, who had consecrated him bishop, says that 'he has sent him *pearls* as a slight token of respect.'" O'Connor refers also to Smith's *History of the County Cork*, vol. 2, p. 264, (published 1750) where he mentions that in the river Arigadeen, which rises in Carbery, "there are pearl-fish taken up, which are found in a large kind of shell-fish, resembling a muscle, but bigger, called here by the Irish a *elosheen*." But what applies more immediately to the query of your correspondent R.L., is the following passage from Harris's *Down*:—"The pearl-fishery of this river (the Bann), near Bann-bridge, though it turns to small account, yet must not escape our observation. The pearls are found

in fresh-water muscles, in shape and colour like the sea-muscles, but of a larger size; the shells of which are sometimes used by the poorer people instead of spoons. The shell is fastened by two cartilages, one at each end, and in this particular differs from the oyster and scallop, which have only one in the middle. Sir Robert Reading (*Letter to the Royal Society*, 13th Oct., 1688) from his own experience gives an account of these fish, and the manner of fishing for them in some rivers in the county of Tirone. The common method of fishing for these muscles in the Bann is very simple. In the warm months, while the river is low and clear, the poor people wade into the water, and some with their toes, some with wooden tongues, and others with sharp sticks thrust into the opening of the shells, take them up. But these methods can be practised only in shallow water; whereas the large muscles, and the greater quantities, are found in deep smooth water. If dredges or other mechanical contrivances were used to fish the deep waters in the Bann, they might probably meet with better success in the size, and, it may be, in the colour of the pearls." This account was published about one hundred years ago. SENEX.

NAMES OF IRISH COUNTIES.—A correspondent (Queries, vol. 5, p. 166,) has inquired the origin of the names of several counties. Regarding *Meath*, Giraldus Cambrensis says (*Topog. Hib.* p. 736)—"Ireland is divided into five parts, whose extremities meet at a certain stone at *Meath* (apud *Mediam*), which stone is called the Navel of Ireland, because it is placed in the very middle of the country; whence also that part of Ireland is called *Meath* (*Media*) because it is situated in the middle of the Island." SENEX.

PLOUGHING BY THE HORSE'S TAIL.—I was not aware that this custom had extended to the Highlands of Scotland; but I find mention made of it in a book published in 1755, *Letters from a Gentleman in the North of Scotland*, the author of which speaks from his own observation:—"In the Western Highlands they still retain that barbarous custom (which I have not seen anywhere else) of drawing the harrow by the horse's dock, without any manner of harness whatever. And when the tail becomes too short for the purpose, they lengthen it out with twisted sticks."

OLLAMH FODHLA.

STANAGOMAR. [Queries, vol. 3, p. 254.]—I think a better derivation for this name than is proposed by A. A., (vol. 4, p. 276) is suggested by a passage in Dr. Hume's paper on *the Ethnology of the Counties of Down and Antrim*, in the 4th vol. of this Journal (p. 162,) where the following passage occurs, extracted from Sir W. Brereton's Journal in 1635:—"About eight or nine miles from the coast of Ireland, they passed the *stran-gawr*, which is a mighty high running channel, where there is a concurrence and confluence of three strong tides."—This is evidently the same current or tide as the one in question, and is more likely to be the correct name. Now

stran, in the composition of Irish local names, is the equivalent of the Irish word *Sruthan* (frequently pronounced *Struhan*) "a stream," "a current." The second part of the word, *gawr*, signifies "a goat," (*gabhar*) and may have been fancifully applied from some imaginary resemblance of the waves to the bounding of that animal.

OLLAMH FODHLA.

OLD FORT OF BELFAST.—A correspondent asks where the old fort of Belfast was?—It is marked in Henderson's map of Belfast, published in 1834, but is now quite effaced by a brick-field.

W. B.

TO GO A WOOL-GATHERING.—[Queries, vol. 5, p. 166.]—Among the curious ancient tenures recorded of the time of Henry III., is the following:—"Petrus de Baldewyn tenet quendam serjantiam in Cumbes in Com. Surrey, *ad colligendam lanam* Domine Regine per albas spinas, si voluerit, et si nolit eam colligere solvet ad scaccarium Domini Regis xx^s per annum."—"Peter de Baldwin holds a certain land in Cumbes in the County of Surrey, by the sergeanty of *going a wool-gathering* for our Lady the Queen among the white thorns, if he so wishes, or if not he shall pay twenty shillings yearly to the exchequer of our Lord the King."

SENEX.

QUERIES.

PLAYING CARDS.—Amongst some old family papers I lately found a number of playing cards, on the backs of which were printed the shop advertisement addresses of Dublin tradesmen, and for which purpose they had probably been preserved. I wish to know if it was a common

practice, seventy or eighty years ago, to print notices in this way, and whether this was done when the cards were new, or after they became soiled? If the latter, it argues that ordinary address-cards were dear, when old playing-cards were thus re-employed by the printer. E. G.

Why is the Great Mogul generally exhibited on the outer cover of packs of cards?

Can any of your readers produce a pack of David Manson's cards, so much spoken of by old persons?

E. G.

What is the origin of our common expression, "to strike a bargain?" It seems to allude to some custom, now lost, of giving a blow in some way or other, as the modern auctioneer still does with his hammer, to indicate the irrevocable nature of the contract.

Q. Q.

Can any of your readers inform me if the Downshire family of Trotter were among the colonists from Scotland in 1608; and if they retain the same armorial bearings as those of that name in the counties of Edinburgh and Berwick; likewise what was their origin, whether Celtic, Norman, or Saxon? The belief in Argyllshire is that the first of the name in Scotland came from Ireland with Fergus II.; and that the king's galley being driven by a storm upon the rocks near Dunaverty castle, one of his warriors saved the king's life by calling out "Trowth ar" (come here), catching Fergus by the hand and drawing him safely ashore.

Campbelltown.

R. T.

Can any one give any information as to who David Kennedy, mentioned in *Pynnar's Survey*, (as grantee in 1611 of 1,000 acres, known as Gortavilly, and situate within the precincts of Mountjoy, county Tyrone) was? To what branch of the family he belonged? and what family he left, if any? Was he the same as David Kennedy, of Killarne, whose daughter Mary, *circa* 1650, married Hans Hamilton, cousin to the Earl of Clanbrasil?

E. N.

Through which of the present streets of Belfast did the old walls and fortifications pass; and are there any vestiges of them remaining?

Q. Q.

We read frequently, in old English accounts of Ireland, of the extensive use of linen dyed with *saffron*. Is this correct? The crocus, which is cultivated in England for producing this dye-stuff, is not known in this country, as far as I am aware, except as a garden flower. The extensive use of the material would indicate that the plant must have been largely cultivated at one period in Ireland; but it seems very doubtful if this were the case. If not, how did the Irish dye their linen of this colour?

CONAN.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our readers will render us a service by communicating any particulars relating to the families of the settlers who came to Ireland from Scotland or England at the time of the "Plantation of Ulster." We are aware that many of the descendants of these families still preserve relics of that period, either in the shape of written documents, old pieces of furniture, dress, &c., or anecdotes of occurrences which took place at that time. We have collected a number of particulars with a view to publication, and earnestly request our correspondents to assist us by contributions however trifling and minute, especially as regards the places from which the settlers came, the names of the families, and their manner of living. Papers relating to the foundation of places of worship, about that time, would probably furnish useful lists of names: and it would be desirable to know whether descendants of the same families remain in the neighbourhoods where they first settled.

EDIT.